

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A high frequency driver for a gas discharge lamp, ~~which that includes a capacitor in parallel to the lamp and is in series with an inductor and which has a capacitor connected in parallel to it~~ that is in series with the parallel connection of the lamp and capacitor, comprising an oscillator, ~~which has that includes~~ DC input terminals for connecting to a DC source and AC output terminals for connecting to a load comprising the lamp, the inductor and the capacitor, the oscillator ~~oscillating providing a lamp voltage at a first high oscillating frequency during ignition of the lamp and the oscillator oscillating the lamp voltage at a second high oscillating frequency during normal operation of the lamp after its ignition, wherein at least one of the first and second oscillating frequencies is frequency modulated with the first frequency being higher than the second frequency by a ratio of at least 2.2.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The driver according to claim 1, wherein ~~the a ratio of the first high oscillating frequency to the second high oscillating frequency~~ is in a range of 2.2 to 7.
3. (Currently Amended) The driver according to claim 1, wherein the ratio is [about] approximately 5.
4. (Previously presented) The driver according to claim 1, wherein the oscillating frequency is frequency modulated with less than 15% of an average of the oscillating frequency.

5. (Currently Amended) The driver according to claim 4, wherein the oscillating frequency modulation is about is frequency modulated with approximately 7% of the average of the oscillating oscillating frequency.

6. (Currently Amended) The driver according to claim 4, wherein the oscillating frequency is frequency modulated at a modulating frequency that is derived from an AC supply to the DC source.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for driving a gas discharge lamp, ~~which is in series with an inductor and which has a capacitor connected in parallel to it, by a driver which comprises~~ via an oscillator, which has that includes DC input terminals for connecting to a DC source and AC output terminals for connecting to a load comprising an inductor in series with a parallel connection of the lamp and a capacitor, the method including: the inductor and the capacitor, the oscillator oscillating
providing a lamp voltage at a first high oscillating frequency during ignition of the lamp and the oscillator oscillating the lamp voltage
providing the lamp voltage at a second high oscillating frequency during normal operation of the lamp after its ignition,
wherein at least one of the first and second high oscillating frequencies is frequency modulated with the first frequency being higher than the second frequency by a ratio of at least 2.2.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the a ratio of the first high oscillating frequency to the second high oscillating frequency is in a range of 2.2 to 7.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the ratio is [about] approximately 5.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the oscillating frequency is frequency modulated with less than 15% of an average of the oscillating frequency.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the oscillating frequency modulation is about is frequency modulated with approximately 7% of the average of the oscillating oscillating frequency.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the oscillating frequency is frequency modulated at a modulating frequency that is derived from an AC supply to the DC source.

13. (Previously Presented) A gas discharge lamp assembly comprising:
_____ a capacitor,
_____ a gas discharge lamp coupled in parallel to the capacitor,
_____ an inductor which- that is in series with the lamp and capacitor, and a
capacitor which is in parallel to the lamp,
_____ a DC supply circuit, and
_____ a driver that includes an oscillator that includes DC input terminals coupled to the DC source and AC output terminals connected to a load comprising the lamp, the inductor, and the capacitor, the oscillator providing a lamp voltage at a first high oscillating frequency during ignition of the lamp and at a second high oscillating frequency during normal operation of the lamp after its ignition, wherein at least one of the first and second oscillating frequencies is frequency modulated according to claim 1 which is connected in series between the DC supply circuit and the lamp.

14. (New) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the first and second high oscillating frequencies are frequency modulated.

15. (New) The assembly of claim 13, wherein a ratio of the first high oscillating frequency to the second high oscillating frequency is greater than 2.2.

16. (New) The assembly of claim 15, wherein the ratio is less than 7.

17. (New) The driver of claim 1, wherein the first and second high oscillating frequencies are frequency modulated.

18. (New) The driver of claim 1, wherein a ratio of the first high oscillating frequency to the second high oscillating frequency is greater than 2.2.

19. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the first and second high oscillating frequencies are frequency modulated.

20. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein a ratio of the first high oscillating frequency to the second high oscillating frequency is greater than 2.2.